

# Fuel Guidance – New In-Line Fuel Quality Sampling Program

## Analysis Contractor

By Tom Gahs

The Defense Energy Support Center has awarded a follow-on In-Line Fuel Quality Sampling Program analysis contract. The new analysis contractor is Penniman & Browne, of Baltimore, MD. Beginning 1 June 2002, all DESC bunker fuel and open market propulsion fuel samples must be shipped to Penniman & Browne for analysis. Penniman & Browne will also be responsible for supplying all replacement consumable sampling materials (collection and shipping containers, shipping labels, seals, etc.).

Penniman & Browne is a small, but long established, engineering and analysis company. We are hoping to dramatically decrease analysis report turn around times. The Phase 1 analysis report, which addresses the contractually enforceable fuel properties required by the Navy Purchase Description (NPD MGO), will be reported within one business day of them receiving your sample. A copy of the report will be faxed directly to your land fax line as well as to MLCLANT, MLCAPAC, and ELC. If the sample fails any NPD MGO requirements, ELC will automatically initiate the Customer Complaint process with DESC. If the failure is serious enough to pose an immediate risk to your engines or personnel, you will be advised via naval message. The Phase 2 report, which addresses the "Informational Only" F-76 analysis results will be forwarded to ELC for interpretation, within three business days. The full analysis results, along with any operational advice, will be forwarded to you by ELC via naval message as soon as interpretation of the data is complete (generally within hours). If you prefer, the results can be forwarded via email instead of a naval message – just forward the appropriate email addresses to Tom Gahs at ELC. Expanded (Phase 3) storage stability analyses will also be performed when F-76 storage stability standards aren't met. This will allow us to estimate how long you have to burn the fuel prior to it becoming an operational storage stability concern. Because these additional tests are involved and time consuming, the Phase 3 results will not be available for two weeks after Penniman & Browne receives your sample. When complete, ELC will forward these results to you, with appropriate operational recommendations. Eventually, the program will also analyze shipboard fuel quality issues for specific fuel storage tanks. However, this contract mod is pending the completion of tank sample acquisition procedures and microbial test procedures.

The in-line sampling procedures have been simplified based on suggestions from the fleet and lessons learned from the three years experience with the pilot program. Ten-liter cubitainers will be used to collect the samples. The larger cubitainer means you don't have to be quite as exact in setting the sample drip rate. Samples will be shipped in only a one 5-Liter shipping container. This will minimize time and effort filling out container labels, preparing the containers for shipping, and the hassle of juggling multiple 1-Liter sample containers. Penniman & Brown intends to use a single courier company for every port, so even contacting the air freight service should be more straight forward. Detailed procedures will have been forwarded to you prior to 1 June, and additional detailed information will be provided as part of the Penniman & Browne sampling kit.

Penniman & Browne will automatically be forwarding new sampling kits to all cutters that are currently participating in the In-Line Sampling Program by 1 June. To minimize any confusion, we request you dispose of all old material (especially instructions, shipping labels, shipping materials, and shipping information) from the original analysis contractor (DNV in Teaneck, NJ). **After 1 June 2002 all samples must be shipped to Penniman & Browne for analysis using the new shipping containers.** Note - if samples are inadvertently shipped to DNV after 1 June, they may not be analyzed at all. All cutters receiving new sampling flange installations will get the new Penniman & Brown sampling kits.

Any questions concerning the CG's In-Line Fuel Sampling Program should be directed to Tom Gahs, ELC-026, voice 410-762-6291, fax 410-762-6203, email [TGahs@elcbalt.uscg.mil](mailto:TGahs@elcbalt.uscg.mil). Suggestions to further improve the program are especially welcome.